

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity, which ~~can be prepared by laminating on one side of~~ comprises a drug layer which, a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water, on the drug layer, and a backing on the support layer, wherein the drug layer contains fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener, ~~a support layer hardly soluble or insoluble in water, and a backing in their order.~~

2. (Original) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the fentanyl salt is fentanyl citrate.

3. (Currently amended) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted ~~as to becoming~~ to become 50 % within one hour.

4. (Currently amended) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of the adhesive and ~~a~~ the thickener is a range selected from 5:95 to 97:3.

5. (Currently amended) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 2, wherein the drug release rate from the drug layer is adjusted ~~as to becoming~~ to become 50 % within one hour.

6. (New) The patch containing fentanyl for mucous membrane of the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein the drug layer consists of fentanyl or its salt as an active ingredient, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer as an adhesive, and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and

hydroxyethyl cellulose as a thickener, and optionally at least one member selected from the group consisting of a softening agent, an absorption promoting agent and a sweetening agent.